

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 10 and 11 are independent.

Claims 6 and 9 have been canceled and claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 10 and 11 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating claims 6 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 4 has been amended to include claim 6 and independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include similar features as in claim 6. Independent claim 7 has been amended to include claim 9 and independent claims 2 and 11 have been amended to include similar features as in claim 7. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 10 and 11 as amended should be allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,907,275 to Hashimoto (hereinafter “Hashimoto”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,392,351 to Hasebe (hereinafter “Hasebe”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,230,898 to Yokota (hereinafter “Yokota”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, claims 4 and 7 have been amended to include allowable subject matter in claims 6 and 9, respectively. Furthermore, claims 1, 2, 10 and 11 have been amended to include features similar to the allowable subject matter in claims 6 and 9, respectively. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 10 and 11 as amended should be allowed. As claims 3, 5 and 8 depend from 1, 4 and 7, respectively, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also patentable for at least their dependency. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Dennis Powei Chen, Registration No. 61,767 at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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